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Attorney Docket No.: F-442

Patent

### **AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (currently amended) A system of hazard detector systems for detecting hazards in a mail piece and notifying remote users including senders and recipients having quarantined mail comprising:

a plurality of detectors each including a contaminant detection hazard detector for triggering a mail piece quarantine indication, an image scanner for scanning the face of a mail piece, a communications system, and a scan detection system for providing sender and recipient information for quarantined mail pieces; and

a server connected to the plurality of hazard detectors for receiving the mail piece quarantine indication and scan detection data, determining a notification method and for communicating the quarantine notification to at least one of the sender and the recipient.

2. (previously amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a secure Internet connection between each hazard detector system and the server

3. (currently amended) A method for communicating a quarantine condition to remote users including senders and recipients of a mail system having a plurality of hazard detector systems with hazard detection systems connected to a central server comprising:

detecting the presence of a mail piece;

detecting source information from the mail piece;

testing the mail piece for hazards to determine an initial mail piece quarantine condition;

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alerting the central server upon detection of a hazard and providing source information to the central server;

determining a notification method; and

notifying at least one user of the mail piece quarantine.

4. (previously amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the source detection includes detecting a destination address.

5. (previously amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the source detection includes detecting a return address.

6. (previously amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the determination of a notification method comprises determining if a valid email address is available for the user.

7. (previously amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the determination of a notification method comprises determining if a valid telephone number is available for the user.

8. (previously amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the determination of a notification method comprises determining if the mail piece address is a valid postal address for the user.

9. (previously added) A mail receiving system for detecting hazards in a mail piece and notifying users including senders and recipients having quarantined mail comprising:

a plurality of mailboxes each including a contaminant detection hazard detector for triggering a mail piece quarantine indication, an image scanner for scanning the face of a mail piece, a communications system, and a scan detection

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system for providing source and recipient information for quarantined mail pieces;  
and

a server connected to the plurality of mailboxes for receiving scan detection data, determining a notification method and for communicating the notification to at least one of the sender and the recipient.

10. (previously added ) A method for communicating a quarantine condition to users including senders and recipients of a mail system having at least one mailbox including hazard detection systems connected to a central server comprising:

- detecting the presence of a mail piece in the mailbox;
- detecting sender information from the mail piece;
- testing the mail piece in the mailbox for hazards to determine an initial mail piece quarantine condition;
- alerting the central server upon detection of a hazard and providing source information to the central server;
- determining a notification method; and
- notifying at least one user of the mail piece quarantine using the sender information.

11. (previously added ) The method of claim 10 wherein the sender information includes detecting a destination address.

12. (previously added) The method of claim 10 wherein the sender information includes detecting a return address.

13. (previously added) The method of claim 10 wherein the sender information includes detecting a meter number.

14. (previously added) The method of claim 10 further comprising:

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storing a plurality of sender information records relating to a plurality of mail pieces placed in the at least one mailbox; and

if the initial mail piece quarantine condition is detected, notifying at least two users indicated by the plurality of sender information records.

15. (previously added) The method of claim 3 wherein the sender information comprises a meter number.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising: wherein scanning the mail piece to obtain the recipient information ~~comprises a scan~~.

17. (previously added) The method of claim 3 further comprising:  
detecting destination information from the mail piece.